

Central Intelligence Agency



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NOTE TO: Chairman Hamilton
House Permanent Select
Committee on Intelligence

FROM: Dave Gries

I appreciated our talk on Monday and look forward to working together. You gave me some good advice which I intend to follow.

The attached "Intelligence in the War of Independence" describes the genesis of our profession in the American context. Suggest you take along for airplane reading.

Please note that Benjamin Franklin was highly rated as Chief of Station, Paris, and the brothers Adams, Samuel and John, showed promise as propagandists. Other participants included Jefferson, Livingston, Paine, Jay, Morris, Bingham, Arnold and Burr, to name the best known.

The covert political action against Louis XVI of France, which proceeded in total secrecy and without a finding, had much to do with subsequent French support to Washington's armies.

Secrecy was also a problem in those days, and Thomas Paine was dropped from the Intelligence Committee of the Congress for talking too much.

And finally, you will note that even in those early days, the Intelligence Community and Congress had their differences, especially over budgets.



David D. Gries

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Attachment

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Intelligence in the War of Independence